

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in the present application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leobold et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,201,811) in view of various U.S. Patents. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action characterizes the Leobold reference as having a J-shaped pouring basin, that contains a gate that couples the pouring basin to a cavity. Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization of the reference. The Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Figure 7 of the Leobold reference. Leobold discloses a method producing a J-shaped cast component. The reference discloses that molten metal impinges directly onto a curved surface of a J-shaped surface of the cavity. As a result, material from the surface defining the cavity is eroded and incorporated into the molten steel.

This disclosure is inapposite to Applicant's claimed invention. In this regard, Claim 1 contains the limitation that the core defines an aperture which fluidly couples a pouring basin and the cavity. Leobold defines a J-shaped surface which is part of the cavity, not a separate J-shaped pouring basin. The aperture referenced by the Examiner does not fluidly couple the pouring basin to the cavity.

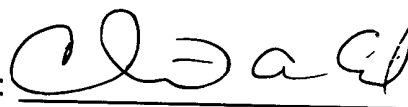
Similarly, Claim 24 and 34 have been amended to include the limitation that the aperture fluidly couples the pouring basin to a cavity defined by the mold. In this regard, an aperture is defined by a core which regulates the flow of liquid metal from the pouring basin into the cavity.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

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